



2005 SEP 19 AM 10 57

September 8, 2005

FDIC San Francisco Regional Office 25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300 San Francisco, CA 94105

Johns F. Carter, Director:

The purpose of this letter is to voice my opposition to Wal-Mart's recent application for deposit insurance for its pending Utah based ILC.

Mixing banking and commerce is bad public policy. It could jeopardize the impartial allocation of credit and create conflicts of interest. There is the potential for a Wal-Mart bank to provide an unfair advantage to its suppliers when making credit decisions.

Wal-Mart has a history of de-stabilizing communities. It could drive out community banks like it has driven out community grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores.

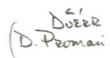
Lastly, the systemic risk posed by a Wal-Mart bank would be enormous. With a branch of Wal-Mart Bank in every store, it would represent a dangerous and unprecedented concentration of economic power.

The future of the community banking industry could be at stake. I appreciate your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

President





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Sincerely,

Celeste Hardnock

Chairman

BETHALTO

704 Texas Blvd.

Bethalto, IL 62010

618-377-9146

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Board Of Directors



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Homer Henke **Board Of Directors**

RETHALTO

Bethalto, IL 62010

618-377-9146

618-633-2265

618-346-3600

618-667-9800



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Sincerely,

Bill Meyer

Board Of Directors

618-667-9800

WORDEN

Maryville, IL 62062



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Dione Rabida

Assistant Vice President



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John Dorsey

Senior Vice-Presiden

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Lisa Zabawa

Assistant Vice President



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Denise Engelke Loan Officer

Maryville, IL 62062